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All antitoxic serums (diphtheria, tetanus, gangrene, scarlet fever) must be dispensed only in pure and concentrated form this year. Methods for purifying and making concentrated preparations of other serums for treatment of dysentery and pneumonia await development. Special attention must be directed toward further improvement of the immunogenic properties of pentavaccines and antitoxins and to increase the titration standards for bacteriophages. The production of high-quality preparations is one of the principal tasks of institutes of epidemiology and microbiology.

The preparation of a dry vaccine for tuberculosis that can be stored for a prolonged period and organizing its production are also important. Such a preparation will permit universal vaccination against tuberculosis. Some of the institutes are not coping with this problem. Several of them still have not converted to the production of the dry vaccine (Molotov, Ufa, Omsk, Kirgiz, and others).

Another important problem for the institutes is the expansion of the production of a dry scarlet fever vaccine. This must be done within the next year or two. Production of this vaccine in dry form will mean a great saving to the state and will improve scarlet fever inoculation throughout the country.

Pediatricians are justified in requesting microbiologists to produce vaccines for scarlet fever and whooping cough. Public health also lacks an effective vaccine for influenza. Microbiological science must cooperate more closely with production to solve these important problems in the shortest possible time.

Insufficient training of personnel is one of the principal reasons for below par vaccine production. The majority of the institutes pay very little attention to the training of scientific personnel and the selection of qualified workers for the staffs. At present, more than half the laboratory directors have no degrees.

The plans of many institutes are without purpose or direction. The many problems of microbiology, epidemiology, hygiene, etc., are not coordinated in one over-all effort. Until recently the Ministry of Public Health USSR paid little attention to the problem of planning. However, the Problem Commission established within the Epidemiological Committee, Scientific Medical Council, Ministry of Public Health USSR, in 1949, has studied the plans and reports of the institutes. Now the Commission is confronted with the most responsible and difficult work, that of actively planning future operations on the basis of this study.

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